

COUNTRY DATA: Belarus

: Information from the CIA World

INTRODUCTION

After seven decades as a constituent republic of the USSR, Belarus attained its independence in 1991. It has retained closer political and economic ties to Russia than any of the other former Soviet republics. Belarus and Russia signed a treaty on a two-state union on 8 December 1999 envisioning greater political and economic integration. Although Belarus agreed to a framework to carry out the accord, serious implementation has yet to take place. Since his election in July 1994 as the country's first president, Aleksandr LUKASHENKO has steadily consolidated his power through authoritarian means. Government restrictions on freedom of speech and the press, peaceful assembly, and religion remain in place.

GEOGRAPHY

Location	Eastern Europe, east of Poland
Area	total: 207,600 sq km country comparison to the world: 85 land: 202,900 sq km water: 4,700 sq km
Climate	cold winters, cool and moist summers; transitional between continental and maritime
Natural Resources	timber, peat deposits, small quantities of oil and natural gas, granite, dolomitic limestone, marl, chalk, sand, gravel, clay
Total Renewable Water Resources	58 cu km (1997)
Freshwater Withdrawal	total: 2.79 cu km/yr (23%/47%/30%) per capita: 286 cu m/yr (2000)
Natural Hazards	NA
Environmental Issues	soil pollution from pesticide use; southern part of the country contaminated with fallout from 1986 nuclear reactor accident at Chornobyl' in northern Ukraine

PEOPLE

Population	9,612,632 (July 2010 est.)
Ethnic Groups	Belarusian 81.2%, Russian 11.4%, Polish 3.9%, Ukrainian 2.4%, other 1.1% (1999 census)

Religions	Eastern Orthodox 80%, other (including Roman Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, and Muslim) 20% (1997 est.)
Languages	Eastern Orthodox 80%, other (including Roman Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, and Muslim) 20% (1997 est.)
Literacy Rate	definition: age 15 and over can read and write total population: 99.6% male: 99.8% female: 99.4% (1999 census)
Major Infectious Diseases	
GOVERNMENT	
Type	republic in name, although in fact a dictatorship
Independence	25 August 1991 (from the Soviet Union)
Constitution	15 March 1994; revised by national referendum of 24 November 1996 giving the presidency greatly expanded powers and became effective 27 November 1996; revised again 17 October 2004 removing presidential term limits
Legal System	based on civil law system; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
ECONOMY	
Agricultural Products	grain, potatoes, vegetables, sugar beets, flax; beef, milk
Industries	metal-cutting machine tools, tractors, trucks, earthmovers, motorcycles, televisions, synthetic fibers, fertilizer, textiles, radios, refrigerators
Import commodities	mineral products, machinery and equipment, chemicals, foodstuffs, metals
Import Partners	Russia 56.42%, Germany 8.31%, Ukraine 4.79%, China 4.04% (2009)
Export Commodities	machinery and equipment, mineral products, chemicals, metals, textiles, foodstuffs
Export Partners	Russia 33.6%, Netherlands 13.78%, Ukraine 8.68%, Latvia 6.32%, Poland 4.19%, Germany 4.17% (2009)
Per Capita GDP	\$13,400 (2010 est.) country comparison to the world: 88 \$12,700 (2009 est.) \$12,600 (2008 est.) note: data are in 2010 US dollars

Population below poverty line	27.1% (2003 est.)
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***CITATIONS:** All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.

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General

Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)	69.6
Average number of years in School (in years)	9.3
Gross National Income Per Capita (In US Dollars)	12,926

Gender Inequality

Female Seats in Parliament (%)	32.5
Population with at least a Secondary Education Female (% Of 25 and older)	..
Population with at least a Secondary Education Male (% Of 25 and older)	..
Labor Force Participation Female (%)	68.1
Labor Force Participation Male (%)	74.1
Births Attended by Skilled Health Professionals (%)	100

Poverty

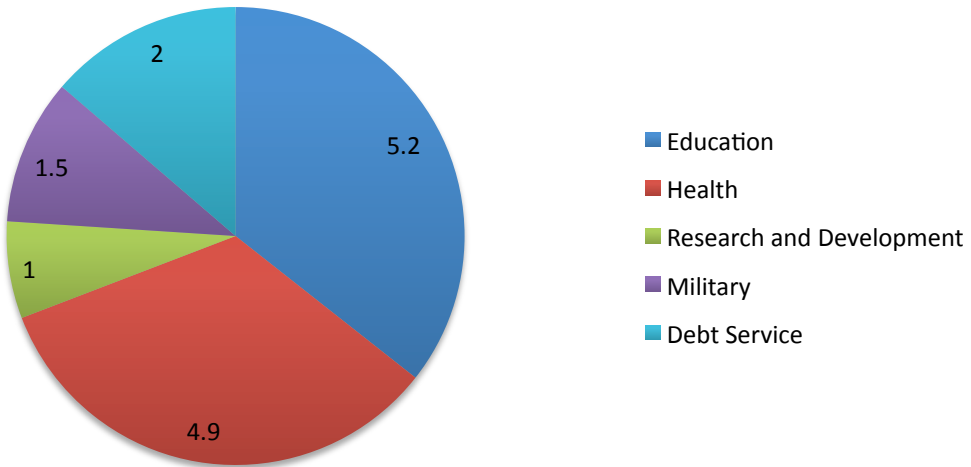
Population surviving on \$1.25 per day (%)	<2
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Empowerment

Number of Journalists Imprisoned	0
Corruption Victims (% of people who face a bribe situation in the last year)	22
Political Engagement (% percent of people who voiced opinion to public officials)	11

Sustainability	
Fossil Fuels as Primary Energy Source (%)	92
Renewable Resources as Primary Energy Source (%)	5
Population without Access to Water (%)	0
Population Without Access to Sanitation Services (%)	7
Population affected by natural disasters (% between 2000-2009)	11,383
Human Security	
Number of Refugees leaving this country	5.4
Number of Internally Displaced People in This Country	..
Prevalence of Undernourishment (%)	<5
Demographics	
Urban Residents (% of total Population)	74.7
Health	
HIV Prevalence in Female Youth (% ages 15-24)	0.1
HIV Prevalence in Male Youth (% ages 15-24)	0.3
HIV Prevalence in Adults (% ages 15-49)	0.2
Other	
Official Development Assistance Per Capita (in US dollars)	11.4
Population without Electricity (%)	..

Public Expenditure (% of GDP)



Please Note: Percentages are not out of 100